

April 22, 1974

PHE 48.2 A628

Anthrax from Drums  
Produced in Haiti

Regional Health Commissioners  
District Medical Directors  
Public Health Nurses

Through: Director, Bureau of Adult  
Preventive Health Programs

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Division of Communicable Diseases

We have been notified by the CDC that in December 1973 a case of cutaneous anthrax was diagnosed in a 22-year-old woman residing in Florida. The source of her infection has been determined to be drums which she purchased in Haiti. Bacillus anthracis has been isolated from two of the six drums purchased by the patient. The implicated drums are constructed of carved wooden cylinders having goat skin drum heads with varying amounts of attached hair.

Persons travelling to Haiti are advised not to purchase drums produced in that country. Because of the risk, importation of drums from Haiti will not be permitted at United States ports of entry. Also, persons who have previously purchased such drums are advised to turn them in to their local health department or to the State Health Center for disposal.

WDS/lj

